

25X1

**Page Denied**

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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EPIDEMICS AND ENDEMIC DISEASES

25X1

5.

directed by the GESUNDHEITS MINISTERIUM DER LANDESREGIERUNG in ERFURT, which in turn is directed by the MINISTERIUM FUER GESUNDHEITSWESEN in BERLIN under Ministerpraesident STEIDLE.

6. Immediately prior to the epidemic, there was a typhoid and para-typhoid 'B' epidemic in NORDHAUSEN, which commenced approximately at the beginning of June. Then followed the infantile paralysis epidemic in GERA from approximately July to the end of October and in between times, there occurred para-typhoid epidemics of moderate severity in one or two districts, chiefly HILDBURGHAUSEN. This was thought to be about September. 25X1

7.

SPECIALIST STAFF

8. [redacted] there was a critical shortage of specialist staff in the DDR. [redacted] there was only one bacteriologist left in Land 25X1 THUERINGIA, namely the one in the ROBERT KOCH Institute in MUEHLHEIM and [redacted] MECKLENBURG was in a similar position. The Chair for Bacteriology at JENA University was at the present time alleged to be vacant with no immediate prospects of a candidate, and the general position was claimed to be getting constantly more difficult.

25X1

9. It is also alleged that the shortage of medical men is becoming acute with only 50% of the yearly wastage being replaced. The flow of newly qualified medical men [redacted] 25X1 [redacted] appeared to be little help, since only those politically reliable were said to be employed or those who had something disreputable to hide.

25X1

10. What was achieved was entirely due to the efforts of individuals with a sense of responsibility for their fellow men, and who by virtue of their own moral backbone and fearlessness were able to stand up to the authorities. As an example [redacted] Dr. KUKOWKA (author of "DAS DEUTSCHE BAEDER BUCH"), who had 25X1 forcibly requisitioned oranges and supplies intended for the HO shops for his patients, during the recent epidemic, and had personally fought the authorities with complete disregard for the personal consequences. 25X1

25X1

INFANTILE PARALYSIS EPIDEMIC

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25X1

[redacted] the disease was pathogenic to mice [redacted] done over 600 experiments using white mice. Although it is here being recorded, [redacted] these experiments would not have satisfied scientific experimental conditions in the West. [redacted]

experiments

ranged from anything from one day to 14 after "contact". The type of disease similarly varied and included all forms - spinal, cerebro and so forth, and consequently, no single picture was capable of being arrived at. The method of transmittal in his experiments for white mice was varied and included contagion by every known means: blood in citrate, coagulation serum, faeces, urine, blood in physiological saline solution and so on. [redacted]

**SECRET**

25X1

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**SECRET**

some sort of brochure will be issued officially by the  
Health Authorities concerned 25X1  
this should be ready about Easter.

12. During the investigations, extensive attempts were made to ascertain and trace possible carriers and 25X1  
in ten sporadic cases of the disease, 25X1  
people who had been carriers for 5-6 years without themselves every having shown any symptoms. 25X1  
cases had been identified where carriers had been among people six or seven times without spreading the infection and 25X1  
the eighth or ninth contact had become infected due to the necessary 25X1  
disposition. It was found also that after a time period of eight weeks, out of 20 nurses there were 3-4 carriers.

13. Regarding contagion 25X1  
three lorry drivers who one after the other became ill with the complaint after taking over the lorry, although it was alleged 25X1  
that the men concerned did not know the first driver had been taken ill with the complaint.

14. suspicion of sabotage in connection with the epidemic had led to house searches on an extensive scale, allegedly for phials or packets 25X1

the Public Health Authorities in BERLIN planned to open a research institute in the field of poliomyelitis next year.

15. When the polio epidemic broke out, localities were restricted. Nurses and doctors were individually given the job of looking after the people and notifying any fresh cases. Theoretically, there were 100% restrictions which included a safety zone around each locality. Eventually the whole of Kreis GREIZ became a restricted area; this was towards the end of August. Shops were closed and no-one was allowed to leave the area and a medical inspection instituted. 25X1  
restriction regardless of the consequences is the only way to circumscribe an epidemic and will without any doubt do so. If it is not immediately put into effect, it is quite useless to attempt it later as it merely means that the epidemic is pursued and is never brought under control. It was for this reason that the doctors recommended that the epidemic should be allowed to run its course. The end of October to the beginning of November saw the end of the polio epidemic 25X1

16. the disposition of the person was a very important factor. Polio was caught mainly through an over-cooling of the body causing a disposition to infection. This cooling might only be local such as sitting in a draught, a sudden change of temperature or even eating an ice-cream.

17. Drainage water was considered the main danger and the precautions taken during the epidemic were anti-fly campaigns, the prohibition of ice-cream manufacture, the prohibition of all strenuous exercise such as gymnastics, dancing, swimming, sports, etc. The reason for the breakdown of the restrictive programme 25X1  
was the WISMUTH workers. It was alleged that due to their high rates of pay (1500-1800 DM per month) these workers were not entitled to unemployment benefit, and consequently, when they were quarantined their income ceased. The result was they broke out of quarantine, reporting to the nearest WISMUTH depot for work. Nothing was done about this state of affairs. A further mention of these workers will be made later in the report.

VETERINARY DISEASES

18. due to no Jaeger or Erstmeister being allowed to carry arms, there are far too many wild pig in the RzA, and it was claimed that red murrain was rife among the herds. Among the domestic pig, it is also claimed at the present time to be very common and swine plague (schweinepest) is said to come a close second, Merrtot 27 is also found but is more uncommon. These diseases are now said to be the subject of investigation on Riems Island under Professor RÖHRER.

**SECRET**

- 4 -

25X1

**SECRET**

19. Regarding foot and mouth, [redacted] the epidemic appears to have commenced in [redacted] approximately September 1951. [redacted] 25X1  
[redacted] a new strain had developed which would account for the alleged lack of serum and the rapid spread and increasing incidence of the epidemic. 25X1

20. [redacted]

21. Alluding to rabies [redacted] there had been nothing in THUERINGIA prior to June 1951, when it had made its appearance.

22. [redacted] 25X1

23. [redacted] milk supply [redacted] constituted a major carrier for any epidemic, as the normal pasteurization and processing precautions in dairies were seldom carried out properly, due mainly to Stakhanovite activity: they were anxious either to raise the output of coal or increase the throughput of milk (i.e. to do which they either lowered the temperature or increased the flow of milk through the processing plant, or possibly both, thereby not achieving the necessary temperature/time factor) [redacted] much infection of all sorts was spread through this source. 25X1

WISMUTH A.G.

24. As already stated, the WISMUTH workers are entirely Russian-controlled, although they have the "cover" of German employment. In consequence, they are not controlled by any German authority, nor have the German police any jurisdiction over them. This of course made any enforcement of local hygiene measures quite impossible. 25X1

25. [redacted] arrest or two WISMUTH workers for creating a disturbance at night. They were lodged in the local lock-up, from whence they were transferred to a prison the following day. On the following day, their comrades arrived in strength in lorries, demanding their release, and to enforce their demands, wrecked the police station and severely manhandled the police who fled. A superior force of workers estimated by GEHRMANN at about 2,000 then beat in the doors of the jail with pick axes, releasing their two comrades and again beating up the police and rioting generally. Whilst this was in progress, the fire brigades from three of the neighbouring towns were summoned to quell the rioters, who thereupon threatened the fire brigades with grievous bodily harm if they did not return immediately whence they came. This they speedily did. It is alleged that no disciplinary action of any sort was taken against any of the WISMUTH workers.

MEDICAL CONDITIONS IN WISMUTH A.G.

26. [redacted] they had their own doctors and medical service [redacted] there were very few polio cases among them during the epidemic [redacted] less than .3% and these only isolated cases. [redacted] three cases [redacted] in the MAX HUTTE UNTER WELLBORN concern, who were known to employ 3,000 people.

MEDICAL SUPPLIES IN THE DDR

27. [redacted] instruments 25X1  
[redacted] were in extremely short supply and [redacted] the official delivery time for a laboratory microscope was 9-12 months.

**SECRET**

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- 5 -

**SECRET**

25X1

MISCELLANEOUS

28. [redacted] for 25X1  
the Youth Festival in BERLIN in 1951. Owing to the shortage of tinned plate, aluminium was to be used and was in fact made into preserving tins. As the same gauge of metal as that of normal preserving tins was used, it would not withstand the pressure and heat and consequently the containers bulged. [redacted]

[redacted] the sterilization process was entirely insufficient [redacted] there must have been gross contamination. [redacted] the inside of the aluminium containers had not been lacquered. [redacted] 25X1  
none of this preserved meat reached consumers. 25X1

29. [redacted] the Russians had an acute fear of epidemics [redacted]

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25X1

**Page Denied**

Next 3 Page(s) In Document Denied